

PATENT CLAIMS

1. A digital image subscription management apparatus in a digital image management system comprising a data communication network and at least one customer interaction apparatus; the data communication
5 network being responsive for communicating data related to digital image print rights between the at least one customer interaction apparatus and the digital image subscription management apparatus, which comprises subscriptions and digital image print rights for digital image printing.
- 10 2. A digital image subscription management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the digital image print rights are comprised in digital image print right data items defining subscriptions.
3. A digital image subscription management apparatus according to
15 claim 2, wherein the digital image print rights are transferable between digital image print right data items in the digital image management system.
4. A digital image subscription management apparatus according to
20 claim 1, wherein the digital image print rights are usable for paying for digital image printing or digital media production in the digital image management system.
5. A digital image subscription management apparatus according to
25 claim 2, wherein each digital print right data item comprises at least one of:
 - a number of digital image print rights,
 - a monetary price of a digital image print right,
 - a monetary price of the subscription,
 - 30 - an indication of an asset related to the digital image print right,
 - an indication of a periodic increase of the number of digital image print rights,

- an indication of a period at which the periodic increase is effected,
 - a digital image print right equivalence table,
 - at least one expiry time of the digital image print rights.
- 5 6. A digital image subscription management apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the asset has the function of a currency within the digital image management system.
7. A digital image subscription management apparatus according to claim 1, which comprises at least one digital image print right equivalence table.
- 10 7. A digital image subscription management apparatus according to claim 1, which comprises at least one digital image print right equivalence table.
8. A digital image subscription management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the subscription database presents a number of digital image print right data item types.
- 15 8. A digital image subscription management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the subscription database presents a number of digital image print right data item types.
9. A digital image subscription management apparatus according to claim 1, which further comprises means for at least one of :
- receiving a request for transfer of digital image print rights between subscriptions,
 - transferring the digital image print rights between the subscriptions,
 - receiving an instruction to create a subscription,
 - cancelling digital image print rights in line with the subscription,
 - increasing digital image print rights in line with the subscription.
- 20 9. A digital image subscription management apparatus according to claim 1, which further comprises means for at least one of :
- 25 9. A digital image subscription management apparatus according to claim 1, which further comprises means for at least one of :
10. A digital image print right for digital image printing in a digital image management system comprising subscriptions.
11. A digital image print right according to claim 10 being comprised in a subscription database, comprising the subscriptions, in a digital image management system comprising a data communication network being
- 30 11. A digital image print right according to claim 10 being comprised in a subscription database, comprising the subscriptions, in a digital image management system comprising a data communication network being

responsive for communicating data related to digital image print rights between at least one customer interaction apparatus and the digital image subscription management apparatus.

5 12. A digital image print right according to claim 10, which is usable for paying for digital image printing or digital media production in the digital image management system.

10 13. A digital image print right according to claim 10, which is transferable between subscriptions in the digital image management system.

15 14. A digital image print right data item in a digital image subscription management apparatus, which comprises subscriptions, in a digital image management system, the digital image print right data item comprising digital image print rights for digital image printing.

15. A digital image print right data item according to claim 14, which comprises at least one of:

- 20 - a number of digital image print rights,
 - a monetary price of a digital image print right,
 - a monetary price of the subscription,
 - an indication of an asset related to the digital image print right,
 - an indication of a periodic increase of the number of digital image
25 print rights,
 - an indication of a period at which the periodic increase is effected,
 - a digital image print right equivalence table,
 - at least one expiry time of the digital image print rights.

30 16. In a preferred embodiment, the digital image print right data item is loaded onto a card.

17. A digital image management system comprises a data communication network, at least one customer interaction apparatus, and a digital image subscription management apparatus according to claim 1, the data communication network being responsive for communicating data related to digital image print rights between the at least one customer interaction apparatus and the digital image subscription management apparatus.

18. A digital image management system according to claim 17, which further comprises at least one digital image database.

19. A digital image management system according to claim 17, wherein the data communication network is at least partly constituted by the internet.

20. A digital image management system according to claim 17, wherein the data communication network is connectable to a mobile phone network.

21. A digital image management system according to claim 17, which further comprises a digital image printer or a digital media production apparatus.

22. A digital image management system according to claim 21, wherein the digital printer comprises means for sending a printing report to the digital image subscription management apparatus after printing.

23. A digital image management system according to claim 17, wherein the at least one customer interaction apparatus, further comprises, or is electrically associated with, at least one of:

- a digital image input apparatus,

- a digital scanner for producing a digital image of a photography or a negative, and
- a roll of photographic film development apparatus connected to the digital scanner forming a digital image.

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24. A digital image management system according to claim 21, wherein the at least one customer interaction apparatus is responsive for at least one of:

- receiving a digital image printing instruction to print a digital
10 image,
- prompting the digital image printer to print the digital image.

25. A digital image management system according to claim 18, wherein the at least one customer interaction apparatus is responsive for
15 transmitting the digital image to the at least one digital image database.

26. A digital image management system according to claim 21, wherein the digital image printer is connected to the data communication
20 network.

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27. A digital image management system according to claim 21, wherein the digital image printer is connected to the at least one customer interaction apparatus.

25 28. A digital image management system according to claim 12, wherein the at least one customer interaction apparatus comprises means for at least one of:

- sending an instruction to the digital image subscription
management apparatus to create a subscription,
- 30 - creating a subscription;
- transmitting to the digital image subscription management apparatus, a request for transfer of digital image print rights.

29. A digital image management system according to claim 17, wherein the at least one customer interaction apparatus is constituted by a general purpose computer.

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30. A digital image management system according to claim 17, wherein the at least one customer interaction apparatus is constituted by a special design shop apparatus.

10 31. A digital image management system according to claim 17, further comprising a digital image print right accounting apparatus responsive for accounting the digital image print rights.

15 32. A digital image management system according to claim 31, wherein the digital image print right accounting apparatus is responsive for generating a sharing of the revenue corresponding to the monetary price of a digital image print right or the monetary price of the subscription.